RACC Meeting Minutes No. 155   (8/10/05)

1. Purpose: A regularly scheduled meeting of the RACC was held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. EST in Room 3246 on Wednesday, August 10, 2005, to discuss and address national and regional AWIPS issues, problems and concerns.

2. Regions In Attendance: The following regions (and other NWS organizations) participated in the conference call: **ERH**: Neal DiPasquale; **SRH**: Eric Howieson; **WRH**: Sean Wink, Andy Edman, Mark Mollner, Gar Nelson; **CRH**: Bill Gery, Greg Noonan; **ARH**: Phil Mieczynski; **NGIT**: Bruno Vercillo; **Warning Decision Training Branch**: Timm Decker;

3. Discussion Items: The following topics were discussed/briefed at the meeting:

a. Status of OB 5 and Other Software Issues: OB5 has been installed at a total of 79 sites. Not all of these sites have installed maintenance release 5.0.1. If a site needs the River Pro fix, they should install this maintenance release.

Concerning maintenance release OB5.1, we are ready to go and just today we sent to the regional focal points a summary of the beta testing. If you have any comments, please get them back to WSH by Thursday afternoon. The mod note should be signed by Friday and implementation can begin by early next week.

OB6 is in the beta phase of testing. Site BIS did phase 1 of OB6 yesterday and will do phase 2 today and will continue with phase 3 in a few weeks. Site MRX is doing phase 1 today, will do phase 2 tomorrow, and will be the first WFO to do phase 3 next Tuesday. We will start the beta conference calls the following week.

b. PUSH'ed DRs in OB6: Susan Reiley from OS wanted a consensus from the regional focal points about certain DRs and whether they should be pushed from OB6 to OB7. Listed below are the subject DRs and the consensus of the focal points:

#602, Printing a 4 Panel Display (Push)

#6521 MetarDecoder Reports Numerous Errors for a Period of Time After DS Swap Ref DR8714) (Push)

#15923 OB6: SCAN Processor Sending Notifications for a Product at 1-3 Second Intervals (need to Fix)

#16059 SCAN VIL Density: Combine 4km and 1 km routines (Push)

#16321 Problem in NERFC FFG Image Display (need to Fix)

#16355 Update D2D and /data/fxa/Grid/SBN directories to reflect current model names (needs some follow up information to make any decision)

#16378 Editing an expired FFW results in incorrect dialog box (Push)

c. GFE InterSite Coordination and the AWIPS WAN Issue: The IFPS ISC grids are sent out to neighboring sites. These grids can clog up the message handling on the WAN network. Mark Matthewson from FSL has come up with a patch to allow each office to manage what ISC grids are sent out and when they are sent. This patch is configurable on a site by site basis. Andy Edman of the Western Region headquarters asked who at WSH could look further into the merits of this patch. The recommendation was to present it to Tim Hopkins so the Performance Working Group (PWG) at WSH could take a further look into it. Also, it was suggested that a Request for Change (RC) could be written in order to get the ball rolling if the PWG deems that the patch is a good solution to the problem. Susan Reiley volunteered to send Andy an RC template.

d. Focal Point/Participants Reports, Problems and Concerns:

Mary Buckingham: We completed installing two firewalls at the WFO and the RFC at State College, PA. We learned that the sites will need to know in advance what exchange of data is done into and out of their AWIPS system. This includes the data that is exchanged through the firewall at WSH. This will make a difference how a site handles the installation of the new firewall.

There are issues with Samba and what worked for the Central region doesn't work for the Eastern region. This is an issue in the local applications area and there are differences between regions. There are some other technical issues that will need to be resolved. The question was asked who can work with the sites on these issues. The consensus was the NCF will handle the AWIPS issues in general and the regions will handle the local issues. Mary stressed that a lot more work needs to be done in a relatively short amount of time.

 Alaska Region: We are planning on doing phase 3 of the OB6 install at VRH on August 15. Site AFC will not be able to do a beta install of OB6 in September due to personnel shortages. The question was asked if they can still do the HazCollect and the reply was in the affirmative as long as they install OB5.1 patch. As a result, the WSH installation team is looking for a marine site as a replacement for AFC to beta test OB6.

 Central Region: What number of sites can perform the de-mod installs per day? The response was five per day and if all goes well, the support could be extended to more sites per day. When will BCQ get an OB6 delta upgrade to at least Beta 0? The response was maybe next week. The region was particularly concerned with a fix for DR 16488 in OB6. [**Editor's Note**: Sanford looked at the summary of OB6 alpha issues to find the exact one Greg Noonan was concerned about. It has DR16488 assigned to it and was checked in. Sanford called Erin of NGIT and she said this fix was in alpha 8. Therefore, the DVD sent to MRX for their beta testing next week has that fix. If BCQ/EHU needed this fix earlier, Erin said that the fix could be pushed out.]

 Eastern Region: We have been busy assisting Mary Buckingham with the new firewalls at CTP and RHA. Also, several sites are concerned about a problem whereby when they go into backup

mode, some products are saved in the data base but are not being transmitted. This has been occurring mainly with the TAF product but occasionally with zones. A trouble ticket was opened up and could the SST look into this trouble ticket as soon as possible? Wayne Martin of the SST is currently looking into this issue.

 Southern Region: nothing significant to report.

 Western Region: Concerning the stock of the backup tapes for the DX rack, the NLSC is reportedly out of them and no word has been given on when replacements could be stocked. A contact point was given here at WSH for the region to contact concerning this matter. In the meantime, it was suggested that in an emergency, the site could procure some tapes locally.

 Warning Decision Training Branch: The WES 5.0 version was sent out to the WFOs and RFCs last week and all those sites should have received it by now.

 NGIT: nothing significant to report.

The next RACC is scheduled for Wednesday, August 24, 2005. If you know of any agenda items you wish to be discussed at this RACC, please e-mail them to Jim Stenpeck and cc Wayne Martin. This is to ensure that all of the appropriate WSH personnel attend this RACC to address your issues.